

# News Release



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Come Celebrate Black History Month in California State Parks**

This February come celebrate Black History Month with California State Parks, as many parks have rich histories involving prominent African Americans. The festivities range from special events, to museums, to interpretive programs. See the below list for featured parks, or visit a park near you!

### **Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park**

Visit on any Friday, Saturday, or Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to see the remnants of this truly unique town. Empty for over 100 years, this historical park showcases a snapshot of life in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The town's founder and namesake, Colonel Allen Allensworth, founded the site in 1908 as an African American settlement where they could come to help better their lives and find the "American Dream."

On Saturday February 12 stop by from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. where the park will be focusing on providing educational and fun-time experiences. Visitors will receive guided and or self paced tours of the park's historic buildings. Speakers will provide soul touching lectures on the history of this African American self-governed town and their living environment.

Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park is located North of Bakersfield in Tulare County. The park can be reached at 661-849-3433 and more info can be found on the State Parks' website [http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=583](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=583).

### **Pío Pico State Historic Park**

This historic park is the site of two-time California Governor Pío Pico's adobe, "El Ranchito." The adobe, first built around 1853, has been completely restored and appears as it did in the 1880s. Visitors can enjoy the park's features including the picnic areas, the adobe, and bird watching.

Pío Pico State Historic Park is located in Los Angeles County, in the city of Whittier. The park can be reached at 562-695-1217 and more info can be found on the State Park's website [http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=621](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=621).

### **Old Town San Diego State Historic Park**

Another legacy of Pío Pico can be found at this Southern California park, which has free admission. Pico, the last Governor of Mexican California, operated a store in Old Town. His mother and sister also lived nearby. Other stunning historical features include the newly remodeled Cosmopolitan Hotel, La Casa de Estudillo, the Seeley Stables Museum, and any of the numerous shops.

The park is located on San Diego Avenue and Twiggs Street in San Diego, and is conveniently adjacent to the Old Town Transit Center, with Coaster, Trolley, and MTS Bus service. For more info call 619-688-3260 or go to [http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=663](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=663).

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